

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 06-30-08)

6,751

Shipments received since opening

55,580

Cubic meters of waste disposed

102, 770

Containers disposed in the underground

Fire Suppression System Update

The first of three phases of work on the fire suppression system in WIPP's Waste Handling Building is complete. On June 27, the New Mexico Environment Department declared that a fire water supply extension met compliance requirements.

The fire water supply system was extended to provide an alternate water feed. Previously, water fed the system through a single six-inch line, but the extension provides an alternate pathway. The change means that water can supply the fire suppression system from two separate paths individually or at the same time, providing redundant coverage for the Waste Handling Building in the future.

The next two phases of work to repair the old line and to evaluate additional improvements are already underway.

WIPP seeks renewal of hazardous waste facility permit



File photo

A 41-ton forklift transports the RH facility cask underground. In October 2006, the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit was modified leading to the first emplacement of RH-TRU waste.

Nearly a decade has passed since the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued WIPP its first Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) on October 27, 1999. The permit was approved for a period of 10 years and will now have to be renewed.

WIPP is authorized by the NMED to receive and dispose of defense-generated TRU-mixed waste. TRU-mixed waste refers to waste that has both radioactive and hazardous components.

WIPP's renewal application (RA) is due to NMED on May 30, 2009 (180 days prior to the November 29, 2009 expiration date). As expected, an application for a permit that lasts 10 years requires a lot of research and information. Accordingly, the Permittee's (WTS and CBFO) have already been steadily working on the RA.

The following are just a few steps the Permittees take in the HWFP renewal process:

- ⌘ Two pre-submittal public meetings in August 2008 and February 2009
- ⌘ NMED will deliberate on the RA after its submission in May 2009
- ⌘ Public review and comment period (typically 90-120 days)
- ⌘ Draft permit issued by NMED
- ⌘ A second public review and comment period (another 90-120 days)
- ⌘ Public hearing (if necessary)
- ⌘ Public hearing officer's report to secretary of NMED
- ⌘ Secretary of NMED's decision on permit

"The development of documents is ahead of schedule and we have completed the first draft of the RA," says Wille Most, WRES renewal application project manager.

Today's permit is quite different from the original issued in 1999. Over the course of the last 10 years, NMED has approved numerous changes to the original permit based on lessons learned and improving operational efficiencies. They included such changes as adding self-contained self-rescuers as emergency equipment and revising the closure dates of the underground panels.

One of the most important modifications was approved in October 2006 regarding RH-TRU waste. The modification allowed WIPP to receive RH-TRU waste and established a common waste analysis plan for both CH- and RH-TRU wastes.

In the first draft of the RA, there are new proposals. For example, Attachment Q will add a mine ventilation monitoring plan to the permit. This mine ventilation plan is already implemented at WIPP, but will be formally incorporated into the permit in the RA.

Also, the RA will seek authorization to dispose of TRU-mixed waste in Panel 8. The current permit allows the disposal of waste in Panels 1-7 and only the construction of Panel 8.

WTS Receives Corporate Achievement Award

On June 12, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs held the 7th Annual Champions of Veterans Enterprise program in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Veteran-Owned Business Accountability Summit in Washington D.C. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs used this esteemed ceremony to distribute awards to corporations that have offered continued support to veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.



Photo: Lynn Whiting (WTS)

Sam Artis (Washington Division of URS Corporation) and Bob Prentiss (WTS) accepted awards from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for support to veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

The awards were given in five categories to recognize significant contributions by

organizations that are dedicated to expanding business opportunities for veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

The Corporate Achievement Award (for support by Procurement personnel) was presented to Bob Prentiss of WTS for quality performance providing advocates with specific success stories. WTS spent eight percent of its total contracting dollars, or more than \$6.2 million, with veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, surpassing the original goal of three percent set by DOE for the program.

A Corporate Champion Award was also presented to Sam Artis, Director Small Business Liaison Office, who accepted on behalf of Washington Group International, Inc. (now the Washington Division of URS Corporation). Washington Group International spent more than \$17.2 million of its contracting dollars with veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Mine Rescue Teams Prepare for Competition

"Practice makes perfect" is the goal for any mine rescue team. On June 19, mine rescue teams from around the Carlsbad area met at the WIPP site to train for the upcoming National Metal/Non-Metal Mine Rescue Competition and the 6th International Mine Rescue Competition. The competitions will be sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in Reno, Nev. on July 14-18.



WIPP's Blue and Silver mine rescue teams, teams from Mosaic and Intrepid Potash and Team USA met at WIPP to prepare for the upcoming national competition. Above, team members from Mosaic practice their skills in the shadow of the Waste Handling Building.

Joining the WIPP Blue and Silver teams at the national competition will be two local teams representing Intrepid Potash - New Mexico and Mosaic Company. In addition, Team USA, which comprises members from both WIPP and the local mines, will be in Reno to compete in the international competition. This is the first time that mine rescuers from the local area have had the privilege to represent the nation in this competition.

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.



Joe Baca (WIPP Blue Team) holds up a self-contained breathing apparatus used by WIPP's mine rescue teams. Also shown is Curtis Sanders, III (WIPP Silver Team).

The five teams spent the day at WIPP running through various drills similar to what they will experience in Reno. Included in the day's activities were field contests, benchman's contests and first-aid contests. In the benchman's contest, the self-contained breathing apparatus, worn by each team member while underground, is bugged with five "faults" and the benchman from each team has 30 minutes to find and repair them.

The focus of this training session was to both critique and coach in an effort to better the teams' upcoming performance.

"This is good practice for the team because we haven't had a chance to practice together much," said Robert Rhoades, member of Team USA. "This shows us what we need to work on."

MSHA considers participation in these competitions to be critical to the training of the teams and the safety of U.S. mines. WIPP's deep commitment to safety shows in the past success of its mine rescue teams. In April, the WIPP Blue and Silver teams attended the Southwest Regional Mine Rescue Competition and took an overall first and second place, respectively.

Learning the WIPP Way

Thanks!

WTS Technical Training thanks the following for their support of this effort:

- ⌘ Freida Huckeba
- ⌘ Steve Casey
- ⌘ Keith Nelson
- ⌘ Sharon Taylor
- ⌘ Della Murray
- ⌘ NCI staff

A special thanks to the crew who put it all together:

- ⌘ Randy West
- ⌘ Steve Childress
- ⌘ Kyle Brown
- ⌘ Daniel Cunningham
- ⌘ Jack Dickson
- ⌘ Drew Faulk
- ⌘ Javier Godinez



Candace Nance (WTS) leads the discussion at a General Employee Training class. This is the first large class to use the newly refurnished training room at the Skeen-Whitlock Building with new training desks and ergonomic seating. Nance and Tom Lichty coordinated the effort to refurnish the room. Nance said it would not have been possible without the help of many people (see list at left).

Within the last 12 months, WTS Technical Training has logged in a total of 4,628 classroom hours, not including administration, preparation and modifications for course work. The total number of classroom courses facilitated during this time was 595, which involved more than 4,700 students.

Transportation "road shows" inform stakeholders along routes to WIPP

WIPP has safely transported more than 6,700 shipments to the facility, which equates to more than 15 million total miles. While WIPP is a familiar name in New Mexico, this is not the case in many states that WIPP trucks travel through. In an effort to familiarize people in other states about WIPP shipping protocols, CBFO conducts road shows along the transportation routes. Generally, these road shows are conducted prior to opening a new route, or when a new transportation cask will be used.



Have you seen these trucks in the area? Students and sponsors interact with Mike Antiporda and Bobby St. John at a recent road show in Roswell, N.M.

Road shows give individuals that live along the routes the opportunity to see the transportation casks up close and talk to representatives from CBFO, as well as the drivers. Recently, WIPP participated in a road show in Roswell, N.M. hosted by the New Mexico Department of Transportation. This show involved more than 600 children and adults from the Roswell School District. A large percentage of both children and adults had seen the WIPP trucks, but were not exactly sure what they were. The road show provided the public an opportunity to view the transportation casks and ask questions about WIPP and its mission.

In preparation for the first shipment from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to WIPP, CBFO will conduct a road show from Oak Ridge, Tenn. to Birmingham, Ala. in mid-July. This show will consist of both the TRUPACT-II and the RH-72B shipping casks. Stops will be made at various locations along Interstates 75, 24 and 59. Stakeholders, first responders and members of the media will be invited to attend at each location.

Independence Day Safety

Let's keep safety an important part of our Independence Day celebrations! Every year approximately 12,000 people in the U.S. are treated for fireworks-related injuries. This Fourth of July, the best way to stay safe and celebrate your independence is to enjoy the Carlsbad Fire Department's public display. This year's fireworks display begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Carlsbad beach area.

If you do purchase fireworks, here are a few safety tips to follow:

- ⌘ Only adults should handle fireworks
- ⌘ Never consume alcohol while handling fireworks
- ⌘ Read and follow all directions
- ⌘ Observe local and state laws
- ⌘ Use outdoors in a clear area away from flammable items
- ⌘ Have water handy at all times
- ⌘ Light only one firework at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- ⌘ Never re-light a "dud" (wait 15 minutes and then soak in water)
- ⌘ Never throw or point fireworks at other people or animals
- ⌘ Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers
- ⌘ Wear eye protection and avoid having any part of the body over the firework
- ⌘ Dispose of all fireworks (including sparklers) by soaking them in water

Since fireworks are only one of the many forms of entertainment this Fourth of July, it is important to also remember safety in your other activities.

Outdoor Activities – Keep hydrated, use sunscreen, have adult supervision at all designated swimming areas, avoid fire hazards and follow all boating and skiing rules.

Party Fun – Designate a driver and designate a smoking area away from fire hazards.

Travel – Make reservations in advance, check your car's maintenance and tag all luggage. Take a list of all important phone numbers (family, neighbors, credit card companies, etc...) and make sure at least one person has your contact information.

Have a SAFE and fun Fourth of July!



Celebrating the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted on July 4, 1776.

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](#)

